

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Listing of the claims:

Following is a listing of all claims in the present application, which listing supersedes all previously presented claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for discriminating a document with a discriminating information, said apparatus comprising:

image reading ~~means for~~ unit reading image data from said document prepared in an optional format;

image data cutting out ~~means for~~ unit cutting out image data corresponding to a designated specified portion of said document from said image data read by said image reading ~~means~~ unit;

color constituent extracting ~~means for~~ unit analyzing color constituents of said image data cut out by said cutting out ~~means~~ unit and setting a color separation parameter determining a density distribution scope in color space for a specific color constituent of said image data cut out, and storing said color separation parameter together with the discriminating information in a document discriminating dictionary unit; and

color constituent separating ~~means for~~ unit producing said discriminating information based on said color separation parameter set by said color constituent extracting ~~means~~, unit; and

~~wherein said discriminating information for said document to be discriminated is produced based on said color separation parameter and compared with said discriminating information~~

a document determination unit comparing for determination said discriminating information produced from image data obtained by reading a document to be discriminated based on said color separation parameter with said discriminating information stored in said document discriminating dictionary unit.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method for discriminating a document prepared in an optional format based on image data read from said document, said method comprising the steps of:

cutting out image data corresponding to a designated specified portion of said document;

analyzing color constituents of said image data so cut out, selecting a specific color constituent and setting a color separation parameter determining a density distribution scope in color space for the selected color constituent, and storing said color separation parameter together with said discriminating information in a document discriminating dictionary unit; and

producing a discriminating information for said specified portion from said cut out image data based on said color separation parameter; ~~whereby~~ wherein

~~a document to be discriminated is discriminated by said discriminating information~~

discriminating information is prepared from image data obtained by reading a document to be discriminated based on said color separation parameter, and wherein said discriminating information so prepared is compared for determination with said discriminating information stored in said document discriminating dictionary unit.

5. (Previously Presented) A method for discriminating a document as set forth in claim 4, wherein said color constituent is analyzed with three primary colors of color, one of said three primary colors is selected as said specific color constituent, and said color separation parameter is determined based on density distributions of said three primary colors.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)